



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
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December 11, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

We are writing to support the comments of Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. (MassAccess) and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25th "Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making" in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

Stoughton Media Access Corporation operates as a great resource to our community. Acting as a link between residents of Stoughton and their local government, athletics, and arts among coverage of many other community events, Stoughton Media Access Corp. is a major source of information for the town. For nearly 10 years, Stoughton residents have tuned to SMAC to stay up to date in all things related to their town, and these new regulations could negatively impact that in the coming years.

The FCC's attempt to redefine "Franchise Fees" weakens the authority of local municipalities. The Cable Act already states that federal agencies may not regulate the amount of the franchise fees paid by a cable operator, and this should not be changed. This new rulemaking will invent a "Fair Market Valuation" where there is no such precedent to base this on and will hurt local television stations severely over time.

Community media stations allow the residents of Stoughton to watch and create uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. Such was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



LOUIS L. KAFKA

State Representative



WILLIAM C. GALVIN

State Representative